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24 November 1965

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

REVIEW OF INSURGENCY PROBLEMS

This publication provides a periodic review of internal security in underdeveloped countries where there is a threat from Communist-supported insurgency.

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Office of Current Intelligence

State Department review completed

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OCI No. 0591/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
24 November 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Review of Insurgency Problems

1. Thailand

The Thai Independence Movement (TIM) is joining the Thai Patriotic Front (TPF), according to a recently received communiqué marking the 1 November anniversary of the formation of the TIM. The TIM, finding the six-point program of the TPF "correct, clear, and agreeable," will accept the "political guidance" of the front in order to form a "collective force strong enough to fight our enemies."

This is the first Communist statement defining the relationship between the two groups since they were formed in late 1964 and early 1965. Although the reason for placing TIM under the TPF banner is not clear, it may be related to reports that the Communists intend to switch from defensive to offensive tactics.

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A 13 November broadcast of the clandestine Voice of the Thai People, mentioning "patriotic people's armed units," is the first public reference by the Communists to armed insurgents.

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A clash between police and subversives occurred in Nakhon Phanom on 7 November, the first since mid-August. Two subversives were killed and some propaganda material was captured.

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Thus far none of the five firefights reported this year in the north-east has been precipitated by the subversives.

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2. Guatemala

During the first part of November, security forces killed from 15 to 30 guerrillas and destroyed a training camp and numerous campsites.

Notwithstanding government successes, insurgents have continued their activities. The leader of the Communist Party action arm, FAR, has claimed responsibility for recent terrorism, but continuing division among insurgent groups still clouds the issue.

There is increasing concern in government and commercial circles over stepped-up threats against the lives and property of wealthy Guatemalans. Besides several known recent kidnappings and murders in Guatemala City, there are persistent reports of many victims of extortion. The number of victims cannot be established, because they fear the instant reprisals promised by the terrorists for informing the authorities. The low morale of business circles reflects lack of confidence in the government's ability to cope with the threat. The regime's own concern is evident in official announcements encouraging private citizens to form vigilante-type protective committees.

The government's suppression of news media's efforts to publicize guerrilla and terrorist activity probably is counterproductive. Censorship merely serves to inspire rumor and leads to exaggerated public suspicion.

Some conservative elements in the city have begun to suggest postponement of the election set for March and reinstitution of the state of siege. The United Fruit Company (UFCO) has advised the US Embassy that it is approaching the point of withdrawal from Guatemala because of terrorist harassment. UFCO's departure would have serious economic consequences for Guatemala and would feed the anti-American propaganda mill.

The US ambassador in Guatemala has pointed out the danger that the Peralta regime may overreact to the insurgent problem, either by counterterrorism

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which would arouse popular antagonism or by canceling elections. Either move would hand a victory to the terrorists.

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4. Venezuela

Student organizations have announced plans to use the observance of National Student Week (21-26 November) to air grievances against the government and to "repudiate" the visits to Venezuela of Secretary Rusk and Senator Robert Kennedy. The US Embassy in Caracas believes the Communists may use the student ceremonies to whip up sentiment for a hostile demonstration during Senator Kennedy's visit, originally scheduled from 26 to 30 November, but, according to press, now shortened to a few hours on 30 November.

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[REDACTED]

Recent actions by the Venezuelan Government against the Communist Party (PCV) and the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) have created what PCV spokesmen call a "serious situation" in the party.

[REDACTED]

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The US Embassy believes that FALN actions in western Venezuela, such as the assassination of two municipal officials, will damage the FALN cause rather than bolster it. [REDACTED]

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One practical result is the government's decision to issue light defensive arms to peasants in the western regions. [REDACTED]

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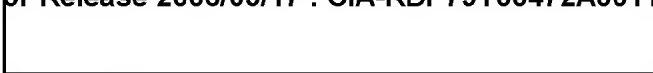
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